

Message Text

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ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOE-11 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SOE-02
SS-15 OES-07 /085 R

DRAFTED BY NASA/LI-15/PATHIBIDEAU:GG
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SEP:RGMORRIS
OSTP/AMORRISSEY
DOS/EUR/SOV/JWILKINSON
DOD/ISA/EMELANSON
DCI/CIA/DGEORGE
NASA/ST-5/ESCHMERLING
NASA/WFC/CMILLINER
OES/APT/SEP:DCRAMER

-----019928 170552Z /65

P 162202Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 068090

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UR

SUBJECT: SPACE AGREEMENT: E-REGION IONIZATION SOURCE
INVESTIGATION (04.03.00)

REF: MOSCOW 02724

FOR SCICOUN

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SCHMERLING, NASA,
TO ALEKSANDROV, HYDROMET SERVICE, WITH COPY TO AVDYUSHIN,
INSTITUTE OF APPLIED GEOPHYSICS.

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2. MARCH 16, 1978 04.03.00

DR. L. A. ALEKSANDROV
HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICE OF
THE USSR
12, PAVLIK MOROZOV STREET
MOSCOW, D-376, USSR

DEAR DR. ALEKSANDROV:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEBRUARY 22 LETTER REGARDING A PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF LAUNCHINGS IN CONNECTION WITH OUR JOINT AMERICAN-SOVIET PARTICLE INTERCALIBRATION (JASPIC) PROJECT. UNDER YOUR PROPOSALS, THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD TIE THE LAUNCH TIMES TO SOLAR-ZENITH ANGLES NEAR SUNSET, BASED ON THE RESULTS OF YOUR PAST RESEARCH. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE DESIRE TO LAUNCH LATER AT NIGHT BASED ON THE RESULTS OF OUR PAST RESEARCH. WE PROPOSE, THEREFORE, THAT EACH SIDE LAUNCH ROCKETS BOTH AT SUNSET AND NEAR MIDNIGHT.

WITH REGARD TO THE THREE LAUNCHES PLANNED FOR THE FIRST EVENING OF THE GEOMAGNETIC DISTURBANCE: THE BARIUM RELEASE MUST OCCUR IN SUNLIGHT AT AN ALTITUDE OF 230 KM; THE NIKE APACHE CORPUSCULAR PAYLOAD MUST BE IN DARKNESS AT 200 KM; AND THE SOVIET PAYLOAD SHOULD BE LAUNCHED WITHIN FIVE MINUTES OF THE ABOVE TWO AMERICAN LAUNCHES. NEAR MIDNIGHT ON THE SAME EVENING, WE PROPOSE TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL THREE LAUNCHES WITHIN FIVE MINUTES OF EACH OTHER: ONE SOVIET PAYLOAD; THE SECOND NIKE APACHE AND THE NIKE TOMAHAWK.

WE FURTHER SUGGEST THAT THE SOVIET "QUIET TIME" PAYLOAD BE LAUNCHED PRIOR TO THE GEOMAGNETIC DISTURBANCE RATHER THAN

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AFTER BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT NO QUIET DAYS WILL BE FOUND BETWEEN THE GEOMAGNETIC STORM AND JUNE 25. THE REMAINDER OF THE SOVIET LAUNCHES COULD OCCUR NEAR SUNSET AS PROPOSED IN YOUR FEBRUARY 22 LETTER.

DETAILS ON THE ABOVE COUNTER-PROPOSAL ARE CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT OPERATIONS PLAN WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED SHORTLY TO THE SOVIET SIDE FOR YOUR COMMENTS AND APPROVAL.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO ITEMS, THE OTHER POINTS IN YOUR LETTER ARE IN ACCORD WITH OUR OWN PLANNING AND WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE DRAFT OPERATIONS PLAN. THE FIRST CONCERNS THE SITE FOR SHIP OPERATIONS OFF THE WALLOPS ISLAND, VIRGINIA COAST. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE LOGISTICS WE SUGGEST THE SAME COORDINATES THAT WERE USED FOR THE "AKADEMIK KOROLEV" LAST AUGUST: 37 DEGREES 45 MINUTES NORTH, 75 DEGREES 27 MINUTES WEST. THE SECOND CONCERNS SURVEILLANCE OF SHIPPING IN THE OPERATIONS AREA. NASA IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE SOVIET SHIP WITH THE LOCATION OF SURFACE VESSELS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AND WITHIN OUR CAPABILITY. OF COURSE, DECISIONS CONCERNING LAUNCH OPERATIONS FROM THE SOVIET SHIP ARE ENTIRELY THE RESPONSIBILITY

OF THE SOVIET SIDE.

IT WOULD FACILITATE OUR PLANNING FOR JASPIC, IF YOU COULD INFORM US AS WAS DONE LAST YEAR FOR THE INTERCOMPARISON TEST, OF THE TELEMETRY FREQUENCIES THAT THE SOVIET SIDE PLANS TO USE AND THE LOCATION RELATIVE TO THE SHIP OF THE

EXPECTED IMPACT AREA OF THE SOVIET ROCKETS. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, NASA WILL USE A LAUNCH AZIMUTH OF APPROXIMATELY 110 DEGREES.'

WITH REGARD TO VISAS, THE SAME PROCEDURE FOLLOWED FOR THE INTERCOMPARISON TEST LAST AUGUST SHOULD AGAIN BE FOLLOWED: EXCHANGE VISAS FOR PERSONNEL COMING ASHORE IN CONNECTION UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH THE JASPIC PROJECT; CREW LIST VISAS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TECHNICAL STAFF AND THE SHIP'S CREW. WE ASSUME THAT THE SHIP'S ITINERARY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THROUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW.

ONE FINAL MATTER. I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE TO DR. S. I. AVDYUSHIN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF APPLIED GEOPHYSICS. IN THE FUTURE I WILL ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THE JASPIC PROJECT DIRECTLY TO DR. AVDYUSHIN, WITH A COPY TO YOU.

SINCERELY,

ERWIN R. SCHMERLING
CHIEF OF SPACE PLASMA PHYSICS
OFFICE OF SPACE SCIENCES
NASA

CC:
DR. S. I. AVDYUSHIN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
INSTITUTE OF APPLIED GEOPHYSICS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, SPACE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE068090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: 15/PATHIBIDEAU:GG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780118-0808
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780358/aaaabxfc.tel
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 32d4a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NASA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 2724
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3300891
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPACE AGREEMENT: E-REGION IONIZATION SOURCE INVESTIGATION (04.03.00)
TAGS: TSPA, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/32d4a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014